

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday May 17, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Members present were: Ms. Pritchard, Mr. Groothius, Mr. Hower, Mr. Zoldos, Mr. Hicks and Ms. Wall. Staff was represented by Mr. Jay S. Banks and Susan DeJong.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the April 19, 1999 meeting were approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A guest, Ms. Mary Federico of Belle Meade Apartments introduced herself. Ms. Federico is new to Leesburg and is interested in trees.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Banks mentioned he was contacted by Mr. Dewar on May 10<sup>th</sup> to ask him for any pertinent ordinances about trees on Town easements. Mr. Dewar has received some direction from Vice Mayor B. J. Webb to work on possibly changing the language as far as planting trees on easements. Mr. Banks mailed to Mr. Dewar a copy of the page which is pertinent to tree planting in town easements from the DCSM (Design and Construction Standards Manual).

Mr. Banks went on to state that the document about planting replacement trees on private property will be located with other documents of that nature in the DCSM under "Forms of Agreement". These documents will be reviewed when the Town of Leesburg hires a full time attorney.

Mr. Hicks brought up the point about planting trees in large planters but Mr. Banks stated that the Tree Commission should discourage the use of planters because trees do not do well in that situation. Planters of this nature shortens the life of any type of tree.

Mr. Banks had spoken to Mr. York about the Tree Commissions \$5,000.00 Tree Planting Project. Mr. York said that there was no line item budget, but there are funds and to proceed. Mr. Banks received a fax from Mr. Dentler, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department this morning with suggestions as to where to plant some trees. However, Mr. Banks said that this is the start of the drought season and is not a very good time to plant trees. The best time to plant trees is in the Fall. Mr. Zoldos offered to speak to Mr. York about carrying this \$5,000.00 over into the next fiscal year or, if we can, purchase the trees now to be planted in the Fall.

Mr. Banks told the Commission that the Fringe Trees they planted at the Public Safety Center last October/November are now in bloom and doing very well.

Mr. Banks said that he spoke with the new Information Technology Director about the upcoming purchase of the new Tree Inventory Software package. A motion was made to have a memo drafted for the Information Technology Director stating the wishes of the Tree Commission to pursue this software package.

Mr. Zoldos thought that the Flower and Garden Show was quite a success as far as the Tree Commission was concerned. Mr. Zoldos said that as far as name recognition for the Tree Commission and giving away the Cherrybark Oak trees for the 2000 by 2000 project was quite successful. The attendance at the show was approximately 30,000 people.

Ms. Pritchard asked for a motion to set up one sub-committee for the next Flower and Garden Show and for Arbor Day. Mr. Hicks made the motion, Mr. Groothius seconded and was approved by all.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Pritchard asked for the endorsement of the Tree Commission on the letter from the Tri-Commission about the Tuscarora Creek development. Mr. Hicks made the motion, Ms. Wall seconded and was approved by all.

Mr. Banks stated that he spent the last of the Commission's budget (\$60.00) on Tree Care brochures.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Mr. Hower stated that he would be drafting a second memo to the Town Council that was coming from the Tri-Commission requesting that the County look into added protection of the water shed - the head waters of Dry Mill.

Mr. Zoldos said he recalled that there had been some discussion on that matter.

Mr. Hower went on to say that the Virginia Department of Forestry has already been contacted by the project manager at Shenstone for Riparian Buffers on the entire stretch. He thinks that representatives of Toll Brothers are looking to make some improvements on the site as far as the water quality and environmental issues are concerned.

Ms. Wall said that she was glad to be back and would have the replacement brochure stand to Mr. Banks before the next meeting.

Mr. Groothius would like everyone to go and see the Riparian Buffer Zone Project that was put in at Ida Lee Park.

Mr. Hicks asked if the Tree Commission has received any registration forms for the Trees planted as part of the Riparian Project. Mr. Banks said no, but that he expects to hear from them soon.

There being no further business the Tree Commission adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Jay S. Banks, Town Arborist

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Susan C. DeJong, Recording Secretary